

### **“City upon a hill” Questions**

1. Documents like this sermon are valuable because they given us a glimpse of ideas and motives behind historical events. Based on this sermon, what was the goal or end that Winthrop and the Puritans had in mind as they prepared to start their colony.
2. What values does Winthrop tell the Puritans they must accept and practice if the new colony is to succeed?
3. Many values expressed in this sermon can still be found in American life and politics today. Read the two news items below. Then, for each one, find a passage in the sermon that expresses the same idea or value. In the space provided, write in the passage you have choosen for each. Be sure to label each as A or B.
  - A. A city council votes to establish a Food Bank that will collect donated food so people hit by a job loss or other misfortune will not go without necessities.
  - B. A suburban neighborhood organizes a “Saturday in the Park” program for residents of a group home for the disabled. Following an afternoon of games, the neighborhood and group home residents celebrate together with a picnic dinner.
4. “For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us, so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and by-word through the world.”

From this passage, what is John Winthrop saying? What is is hope for the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

5. Do you think America today is a “city upon a hill”? In what sense? Explain your viewpoint.